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R 172002Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1349
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 1699
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3586
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0222
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 1348

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 000624

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STATE FOR IIP/G/WHA, INR/R/MR, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAQ KIPR PGOV PREL VE CI

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CHAVEZ, CHILE, AND BACHELET

¶1. On April 17, business and financial "Diario Financiero" (circ. 30,000) carried an editorial entitled "Problems with Venezuela."

Quotes:

"The new diplomatic impasse in which Chile finds itself due to President Hugo Chavez's statements against the Chilean Senate...confirms how imprudent it would have been to vote for that country in the UNSC. It also poses an important challenge for international organizations such as the OAS, because of the almost unlimited power Chavez is acquiring in his country and the degree of interventionism he is exerting in the rest of the continent."

¶2. On April 16, conservative, afternoon "La Segunda" (circ. 33,000) carried an editorial entitled, "Trip to Venezuela." Quote:

"Michelle Bachelet has responded with severity and determination in this situation, complying with her constitutional obligations. We assume she will do the same in Venezuela. Furthermore, what has happened (with Chavez) has helped to clarify... the risks and conflicts that the Chavista regime's regional policy entails, if there was ever any question about this."

KELLY